

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-25

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, CG, IT, PFOR

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF PRESIDENT MOBUTU VISIT TO ITALY

REF: ROME 3759

1. PRESIDENT MOBUTU OF ZAIRE ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS WITH GOI REPRESENTATIVES (PRESIDENT LEONE, PM ANDREOTTI AND FM MEDICI) FOCUSED UPON 1) BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS, 2) EC- AFRICAN RELATIONS AND IN PARTICULAR UPCOMING RENEGOTIATION OF YAOUNDE CONVENTION, AND 3) MOBUTU CONCERN WITH WHAT HE CHARACTERIZED AS DETERIORATING TERMS OF TRADE FACED BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BECAUSE OF VARYING RAW MATERIAL PRICES. FOUR AGREEMENTS SIGNED IN COURSE OF VISIT, MOST IMPORTANT OF WHICH WAS BROADENING OF 1962 TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT, WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO AGRICULTURAL, GEOLOGICAL, NUCLEAR, MILITARY AERONAUTICAL, HEALTH AND SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION SECTORS. REMAINING THREE AGREEMENTS CONCERNED MODIFICATION OF EXISTING AIR SERVICE AGREEMENT, CONVENTION TO AVOID DOUBLE TAXATION IN MARITIME AND INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAFFIC, AND MARITIME NAVIGATION CONVENTION.

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2. DURING FIVE- DAY PRIVATE PORTION OF VISIT PRESIDENT MOBUTU VISITED STATE HOLDING COMPANIES IRI AND ENI; FIAT, AGUSTA (HELICOPTERS), AERMACCHI (WHICH HAS SUPPLIED AIRCRAFT FOR TRAINING OF ZAIRE PILOTS), AND SOCIETA SICAI, IRI GROUP FIRM RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING OF INGA DAM PROJECT IN ZAIRE.

3. MFA OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR SUB SAHARA AFRICAN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DESCRIBED MOBUTU VISIT AS ONE OF LIMITED ECONOMIC SUBSTANCE DESPITE EXTENSIVE CONVERSATIONS WITH BOTH GOI OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF ITALIAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY. SOURCE ADDED THAT ITALY ALREADY HEAVILY INVOLVED ECONOMICALLY IN ZAIRE AND THAT ITALIAN TENDENCY NOW IS TO " GO IT SLOW," SINCE MUCH TO BE DONE IN OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES. NEITHER MFA SOURCE, NOR ITALIAN PRESS IDENTIFIED ANY SPECIFIC NEW ITALIAN EFFORTS IN ZAIRE RESULTING FROM MOBUTU VISIT. VOLPE

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